At the end of the year the amount in the Police Provident Fund was Rs. 2,11,507. The balance of the Police Fund was Rs. 11,563/-, the sum of Rs. 5,744/- was paid out in loans to Police and Naturs, most of the payments being for building or repairing houses. 625 657

**Crimes and Accidents.** There was a slight increase in the number of serious crimes which is thought to be partly due to the large influx of foreigners, especially Omanis, during recent years. 674 186

On 25th January, 1953, some Omanis who were living in the brothel area, missed one of their party, Abdulla bin Salim. They went to his house which was found to be locked. One of them climbed over the wall and on entering the house he found Abdulla with his throat cut. The victim was a bad character, a procurer in the brothel area. Police investigations produced no evidence to justify a prosecution.

On 13th December, 1952, a youth named Abdul Husain bin Isa, who worked as a car cleaner and who habitually slept in a garage in Manama, was found by the owner of the garage, when he came to take out his car, lying dead on his bed with a wound in his back and signs of having been throttled. The garage doors were locked, one key was in the possession of the youth and the owner of the garage had another key. The garage, however, could have been entered by an inner door. There appeared to be no motive for the murder as the victim was not of the type to be associated with an affair of sex. The Police arrested the owner of the garage and his brother and laid a charge of murder against them in the Bahrain Court. The family of the murdered man were insistent that he had been murdered by the owners of the garage. The case was heard and the accused were acquitted owing to lack of evidence. 674 695 681

On 17th May, 1953, one Abdul Husain bin Haji Sulman bin Khalaf, a local Bahraini, was walking in a lane near his house, at night. His brother, Ibrahim, came on him from behind and stabbed him twice with a knife. He was seriously injured but after hospital treatment he recovered. The reason for the attack was a family quarrel. The attacker was sentenced to four years imprisonment with hard labour.

On 7th November, 1952, two men were cleaning their hands with petrol at one of the garages in Manama. Another man lit a match which ignited the petrol causing serious burns to both of the men one of whom subsequently died in hospital.

An Omani came from Dubai and reported to the Police that two years before his son, aged 18, who was working in a garage in Bahrain, died from burns. It was established that the boy had died in hospital as a result of burns but no evidence was forthcoming about the cause of the burns.

A man who was arrested for pickpocketing attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a razor blade, in the Police Station.

There were two deaths from electrocution. A boy of 12 years caught hold of an electric wire in a shop and was killed, and a man climbed an electric standard, in order to catch birds, touched a live wire and was killed immediately. [165]

Five cases of accidental drowning occurred, two men were lost when their small fishing craft capsized, an old man, reputed to be nearly 100 years old, fell into the sea from a fishing boat during stormy weather off Barbar and two children were drowned on the shore west of Manama town. In none of these cases was there any suggestion of foul play.

On 23rd August, 1953, some boys were out shooting on the shore near Jasrah. A shot from the gun of Mohamed Ahmed Al Ghatam entered the neck of one Ibrahim bin Mohamed Al Khalifah and killed him. The owner of the gun immediately left Bahrain. His father was ordered to pay Rs. 5000 to the relatives of the victim and to remove himself from Jasrah and an order was passed against the son forbidding him to return to Bahrain for an indefinite period. The families were related and were branches of the Ruling Family.

There were 280 cases of theft reported to the Police against 303 cases in 1371. Of these cases 55 were presented in Court, 133 cases were undetected and 92 cases were not proceeded with for lack of evidence. Most of the cases were pickpocketing and thefts of clothes.

549
189
51





## ACCIDENTS RETURN 1372

Total Number of Accidents .. 142

| ACCIDENTS Involving Death or Injury to Persons | | | ACCIDENTS Involving Damage to Vehicles. | | ACCIDENTS Involving Damage to Property. | | ACCIDENTS Involving Injury to Animals. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 55 | | | 95 | | 8 | | 3 | |
| Number of Persons Injured. 79 | | | Number of Vehicles Damaged 143 | | Property Damaged. 8 | | Number of Animals Injured. 3 | |
| Slightly. | Seriously. | Fatally. | Slightly. | Seriously. | Slightly. | Seriously. | Killed. | Injured. |
| 40 | 29 | 10 | 107 | 36 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

COURT PROCEEDINGS AS RESULT OF ACCIDENTS .. .. .. 55

| BAHRAIN COURT | | | | AGENCY COURT | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number Cases. | Number of Persons Accused. | Convictions. | Acquittals. | Number Cases. | Number of Persons Accused. | Convictions. | Acquittals. |
| 45 | 45 | 40 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | Nil. |

The two animals shown above as "Injured" are : Two Donkeys.

them local merchants and many of them members of the two municipal councils, found it impossible to give up a whole morning every week to this voluntary work, but now that they only sit once every fortnight their attendance is more regular. 671 692

The Mejlis Tajara deals with cases both from Bahrain courts and from the Agency courts. It relieves the other courts of much work and is frequently successful in effecting compromises between parties, which saves time and trouble. In its present form the Mejlis Tajara is a satisfactory institution. 693

**Small Mixed Court.** This court was started in 1928 and deals with civil cases up to Rs 400/-. The Bahrain magistrate, a junior member of the Ruling Family, sits with a representative of the Political Agent, usually the Indian Assistant. This court has been a useful training ground for some of the younger shaikhs who, after working in it for some years, have been promoted to more responsible positions.

**Laws and Codes.** At present, except in the Shera courts, which decide cases according to Islamic law, none of the Bahrain courts follow any regular law or code. 671 In important criminal cases the Bahrain Court is guided by the Sudan Penal Code, which is almost identical to the Indian Penal Code, but in minor criminal cases it gives sentences which it considers suitable and compatible with local opinions and conditions. Frequently these punishments differ very greatly to those which would be inflicted on foreigners found guilty of exactly the same offences who are tried and sentenced according to the Indian Penal Code. As an example of this, it is the practice of the Bahrain Court to sentence any person who contravenes the Bahrain liquor regulation, for instance, by being in possession of liquor, to undergo eight months' hard labour in the case of a first offence.

Civil cases are judged according to local custom and practice and, in cases which are applicable, especially in land disputes and diving cases, according to the various Government proclamations which are issued from time to time. Unfortunately, these proclamations have never been coded and not all the public are conversant with them.

Until about two years ago the practice of the courts of dealing with cases without a regular code was not objected to by the public, but during the agitation raised by a small faction of the Manamah Shias in 1935 a demand was made for a code of laws to be adapted by the Bahrain courts. A committee was appointed by the Government consisting of Shaikh Abdulla bin Shaikh Hamad and two Arabs and two Baharna, assisted by the clerk of the courts. It was intended that they should first codify all the existing proclamations, but it soon became apparent that the proclamations themselves, with the exception of the Diving Laws and a few other detailed regulations such as land registration rules, etc., were inadequate even to form a basis of a simple code for the courts. The committee have been meeting once a week for over a year and they have accomplished much valuable work, but it will probably take them another year to complete their task. The code which they are drafting refers only to civil matters such as rules regarding fishing rights, court rules, etc., etc., and it is not proposed that they should compose a criminal code. If a criminal code is necessary, and in my opinion it is not, it would save time and trouble if the Sudan Penal Code was altered to suit local conditions and then adapted. It has the advantage of being available in Arabic.

**Police Regulations.** The Bahrain police are not subject to or instructed in any regular form of regulations. As 90% of them are illiterate, it would be difficult to make them conversant with such regulations as the Indian Code of Criminal Procedure, but the police deal with an ever-increasing number of cases in which foreigners, including Europeans, Americans, and Indians, are involved. Only one of the N.C.O.'s has any knowledge of Indian rules and regulations affecting police cases and prosecutions, and as the courts in which foreigners are normally charged with criminal offences are governed by the Indian regulations, the position of the police is liable to become increasingly difficult. The Bahrain courts do not allow any foreigners to appear before the courts as pleaders or Wakils, but if in the future any professional Indian pleaders should appear in cases connected with the Bahrain police, he would probably be able to pick holes in the method of presenting cases. 671 693 695